

DATE OF MEETING | MARCH 20, 2019 |

AUTHORED BY | DARCIE OSBORNE, MANAGER, RECREATION SERVICES  
PARKS AND RECREATION |

SUBJECT | TRAVEL ASSISTANCE GRANT – VANCOUVER ISLAND SPECIAL  
NEEDS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION |

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To obtain Council approval of a request for a Travel Assistance Grant. |

### **Recommendation**

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve the request from the Vancouver Island Special Needs Hockey Association for a Travel Assistance Grant in the amount of \$2,000 for twenty (20) players to attend the Southern California Special Needs Hockey Festival to be held from 2019-APR-26 through 2019-APR-28 in Valencia, California.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Nanaimo provides a contingency account for amateur sports and cultural groups, and individuals to travel within B.C. (excluding travel on Vancouver Island) and out of province to a Regional, National or International Championship. These funds are available to sports and cultural groups qualifying in Provincial or Regional competitions and the current policy provides \$50 per person to a maximum of \$1,000 per application for travel within B.C. or \$100 per person to a maximum of \$2,000 per application for travel outside of B.C. Requests are considered on a first-come, first-served, basis as funds remain available.

Staff review all Travel Assistance Grant applications and forward the recommendation to Council for approval.

On 2019-FEB-26, Staff reviewed a Travel Assistance Grant application submitted by the Vancouver Island Special Needs Hockey Association in the amount of \$2,000 for twenty (20) athletes to attend the Southern California (SoCal) Special Needs Hockey Festival to be held from 2019-APR-26 through 2019-APR-28 in Valencia, California, USA. Staff determined that this application meets all but two of the grant criteria. Specifically, the two criteria they cannot meet are the need to qualify at a provincial, regional, or national level and the need to be attending a regional, provincial, or national championship. The team consists of adults and youth with developmental disabilities and as such, there is no league and this invitational tournament is the only tournament available to them. Staff believes the opportunity to have the team represent Nanaimo at this tournament merits extra consideration and recommend that Council approve the application. |

## **OPTIONS**

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve the request from the Vancouver Island Special Needs Hockey Association for a Travel Assistance Grant in the amount of \$2,000 for twenty (20) players to attend the Southern California Special Needs Hockey Festival to be held from 2019-APR-26 through 2019-APR-28 in Valencia, California.
  - **Budget Implication:** To date, there has been \$600 allocated or pending from the 2019 Travel Grant Contingency Funds. If the above travel grant of \$2,000 is approved, \$4,900 will remain available for any additional 2019 travel grant requests.
  - **Engagement Implication:** Promotes excellence in sports and culture.
2. That Council deny the Travel Assistance Grant application from the Vancouver Island Special Needs Hockey Association.
  - **Budget Implication:** To date, there has been \$600 allocated or pending from the 2019 Travel Grant Contingency Funds. If the above travel grant of \$2,000 is denied, \$6,900 will remain available for any additional 2019 travel grant requests.

## **SUMMARY POINTS**

- Funds are allocated yearly for Travel Assistance Grants.
- The group applying does not meet two of the required criteria as there are no championships available for the group to compete in.
- To date, there have been \$600 allocated or pending from the 2019 Travel Grants Contingency Funds and \$6,900 remains available for 2019 travel grant requests.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Travel Assistance Grant Application  
Attachment B – Travel Assistance Evaluation Form

### **Submitted by:**

Darcie Osborne  
Manager, Recreation Services

### **Concurrence by:**

Richard Harding  
Director, Parks and Recreation